

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ORM-02 DHA-02 ACDA-05 /077 W

----- 120943

R 061101Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6403

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0257

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CB, LA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI-CAMBODIAN-LAO RELATIONS

SUMMARY: CHATCHAI DECLARES HIMSELF PLEASED WITH STATE OF THAI RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, LAO AMBASSADOR OUAN SNITH WILL SOON DEPART FOR FRANCE, AND THERE IS REPORTEDLY ANOTHER INCIDENT AT TA PHRAYA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 5, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN GAVE SHORT, GENERALLY UPBEAT VIEW OF THAI RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND LAOS, EXPRESSING HIMSELF AS VERY SATISFIED AND PLEASED OVER THEIR DEVELOPMENT. ASKED WHETHER THE BORDER WITH LAOS WILL BE REOPENED PERMANENTLY, HE REMARKED THAT IF THE SITUATION THERE IS QUIET AND ORDERLY, AND IF NO MORE REFUGEES ENTER THAILAND FROM LAOS, THE RTG WILL OPEN OTHER PARTS OF THE BORDER, AS WELL.

2. THE PRESS ALSO ASKED CHATCHAI FOR HIS VIEWS ON A LAO-  
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CAMBODIAN BORDER CLASH WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED ON NEW

YEAR'S EVE, WHICH DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER COLONEL PRAKOP PRAYUNPHOKKHARAT ANNOUNCED JANUARY 5. CHATCHAI REPLIED ONLY THAT "THAT IS THEIR AFFAIR." COMMENT: OUR AND OTHER ATTEMPTS TO TRACK DOWN SOURCE OF PRAKOP'S INFORMATION HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS TO DATE. END COMMENT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO LAO-THAI BORDER, KAMON PRACHUAPMO, CHIEF OF INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE DRAFTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR NONG KHAI PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES CONCERNING REOPENING OF BORDER JANUARY 1. HE SAID EMPHASIS PLACED ON CLOSE CONTROL OF MOVEMENT OF ALL GOODS AND PEOPLE ACROSS BORDER. KAMON ADDED THAT LARGE AMOUNT OF SOVIET AND OTHER GOODS THERE CAN MOVE ACROSS RIVER INTO LAOS WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT, ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS, BUT QUANTITIES OF GOODS MUST BE REASONABLE, I.E., JUST ENOUGH FOR LAO NEEDS AND NO MORE. INCIDENTALLY, KAMON, WHOSE OFFICE ADMINISTERS THAI REFUGEE PROGRAM, SEES NO END IN SIGHT AT THIS TIME TO LAO REFUGEE INFLUX.

4. PRESS REPORTS THAT LAO AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND OUAN SNITH HAS RESIGNED HIS POST AND WILL DEPART FOR FRANCE JANUARY 10, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE. ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR BROCHAND, OUAN SNITH HAS BEEN WANTING TO QUIT FOR SOME TIME. ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER SAID IT IS NORMAL FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO RESIGN WHEN THE KING WHO APPOINTS HIM HAS LEFT HIS POST, ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT OUAN SNITH IS MEMBER OF OLD REGIME WHO DOES NOT SEE EYE TO EYE WITH THE NEW. BROCHAND ADDED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE LAO EMBASSY HERE, WITH EXCEPTION--FOR THE MOMENT--OF COUNSELOR KATH DITHAWONG, WILL BE DEPARTING THAILAND WITH LAO AMBASSADOR FOR FRANCE.

5. AP INFORMED EMBASSY THAT ITS STRINGER IN ARANYAPRATHET CALLED TO ADVISE THAT THERE WAS YET ANOTHER THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER INCIDENT IN TA PHRAYA AREA JANUARY 6, WITH ONE THAI KILLED.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** THAI-CAMBODIAN-LAO RELATIONS SUMMARY: CHATCHAI DECLARES HIMSELF PLEASED WITH STATE OF THAI  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, CB, LA, TH, (CHATCHAI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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